

Message Text

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72

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 INT-05 /104 W

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R 050153Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6893

INFO AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 2706

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, SENV, ID

SUBJ: SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL MINES

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S FURNISHING PRINTED MATERIAL FOR PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR OF INDONESIAN STATE COAL MINING COMPANY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATION PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR OF STATE COAL MINING COMPANY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF 25 MILLION TONS-PER-YEAR STRIP MINE SHELL IS PLANNING TO DEVELOP FOR SUB-BITUMINOUS COAL IN SOUTHERN SUMATRA. HE INQUIRED WHETHER ANY WORK HAD BEEN DONE IN THE UNITED STATES (OR BY U.S. GEOLOGISTS, SCHOLARS, AND CONSULTANTS) ON RECLAMATION OF SUCH AREAS. TROPICAL SOILS AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, POVERTY OF INFRASTRUCTURE ARE INVOLVED; OVERBURDEN REMOVAL ESTIMATED AT 75 MILLION CUBIC METERS A YEAR.

3. INQUIRER ASKED ALSO WHETHER WE KNEW OF ANY WORK
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ON THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY ENCLAVES ON

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HIS INTEREST IS IN "HOW-TO" ADVICE ON INTRODUCING A LARGE MINE AND NEW TRANSPORT FACILITIES INTO A POOR AREA WITH A MINIMUM OF SOCIAL DISRUPTION AND A MAXIMUM OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE SURROUNDING POPULACE. SIGNIFICANT INFLUX OF WELL-PAID FOREIGNERS IS IN PROSPECT, AT LEAST DURING DEVELOPMENT PERIOD.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S INVESTIGATING THE AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION REQUESTED. OUR LOCAL INQUIRIES HAVE DISCLOSED FEW INDICATIONS OF RESEARCH BASED ON AREAS LIKE SOUTHERN SUMATRA; HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY SOME STUDIES WITH IMPLICATIONS VALID FOR INDONESIA. WE UNDERSTAND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY MAY HAVE SOME USEFUL MATERIAL AND INFER THE OFFICE OF COAL RESEARCH MAY HAVE FOCUSED ON SOME PERTINENT ASPECTS. OTHER SOURCES SUGGESTED TO US INCLUDE THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF ALASKA, DIRECTOR OF STATE PLANNING AND RESEARCH, FOR STUDIES OF THE LOST RIVER PROJECT (WHICH MAY HAVE LEGAL AND SOCIAL PARALLELS WITH THE SUMATRA PROJECT), MITRE CORPORATION CONSULTANT HARRY PERRY, AND THE UNITED MINeworkers.

5. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WANT TO INFORM REPUTABLE CONSULTANTS OF THE INQUIRER'S INTEREST.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COAL, MINING, DOCUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART02706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750077-0630
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750381/aaaacvas.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL MINES
TAGS: EMIN, SENV, ID, EPA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006